

IN THE CLAIMS:

A listing of the status of all claims 1-13 in the present patent application is provided in attached Appendix A.

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 6, 2004, has been received and carefully considered. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections in the present application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

I. OBVIOUSNESS REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-10 AND CLAIM 13

At page 2, paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,881,291 to Piazza ("Piazza") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,598,186 to McGuire ("McGuire"). At page 5, paragraph 3 of the Office Action, claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Piazza in view of McGuire and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,704,927 to Bak et al. ("Bak"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as being improper for, at least, failing to disclose each claimed